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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Food Distribution Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

July 14, 1943

FOOD INDUSTRIES LABOR BRANCH MEMORANDUM NO. 4

To: All Branch and Division Chiefs

From: Arthur J. Holmaas, Acting Chief, Food Industries
Labor Branch

Subject: Prevention of Work Stoppages and Strikes in Food
Industries

Arrangements are available for securing rapid action on work stoppages and strikes and for handling employer-employee misunderstandings in food industries. Although representatives of the Food Industries Labor Branch will not take active part in the settlement of labor disputes in the food industries, we have developed working relationships with the United States Conciliation Service of the Department of Labor and the Strike Section of the War Labor Board which will assure that a competent labor arbitrator or conciliator can be at the scene of the trouble within twenty-four hours after it is reported to the Food Industries Labor Branch. Although these services have representatives in various parts of the country, this indirect procedure is necessary as their assignments are made directly from Washington.

This arrangement has been developed especially to assure continuous production in those industries with which the Food Distribution Administration is concerned. If at all possible, information about impending disputes should be brought to the attention of the Food Industries Labor Branch before the actual strike or work stoppage. The services of the Conciliation Service and the War Labor Board will be made available in either case, but experience indicates that chances for a quick settlement are much better before an open break takes place.

When informing the Food Industries Labor Branch of potential or existing employer-employee disputes, it is important that the various Branches or Divisions of the Food Distribution Administration also supply us with as much detailed information about these disputes as may be available.

Arthur J. Holmaas

